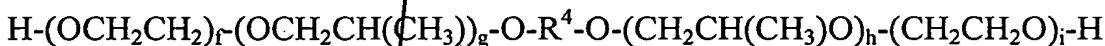
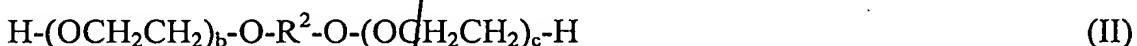


**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A water-based ink comprising an aqueous dispersion of fine polymer particles containing a colorant, and at least one polyalkylene oxide derivative selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by the following formulae:



(IV)

wherein each of a and d is independently a number of 10 to 40; each of b and c is independently a number of 5 to 20; e is a number of 1 to 3; f is a number of 5 to 20; each of g and h is independently a number of 0 to 4, wherein g + h is a number satisfying 1 to 4; i is a number of 5 to 20; each of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> is independently a monovalent aliphatic group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a monovalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a monovalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R<sup>2</sup> is a divalent aliphatic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R<sup>4</sup> is a divalent aliphatic group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a divalent alicyclic group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or a divalent aromatic group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms; and the oxyethylene chain and the oxypropylene chain described in the formulae (III) and (IV) may be added in random or block forms.

Skr  
A3  
cr

2. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is an organic pigment or carbon black.

5 3. The water-based ink according to claim 1, which comprises a water-soluble organic solvent.

4. The water-based ink according to claim 1, wherein the surface tension of the polyalkylene oxide derivative is at least 50 mN/m at 25°C.

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